

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14820 071007Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AF-10 ARA-14 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8003
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USSALTTWO

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T

E. O. 11652:NA

TAGS: SALT, PM, UK

SUBJECT: BRANDON ARTICLE ON CRUISE MISSILES

1. SEPTEMBER 4 SUNDAY TIMES CARRIED HENRY BRANDON
STORY FROM WASHINGTON UNDER ?HEADLINE "DON'T CUT US
OUT ON THE CRUISE, EUROPE TELLS US." EXCERPTFOLLOW.

2. "SECRET DIPLOMATIC MOVES ARE GOING ON TO PREVENT
A SPLIT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS EUROPEAN
ALLIES OVER THE FUTURE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY CRUISE
MISSILE.

THE ISSUE CONCERNS THE AMERICANS' CONTINUING
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO LIMIT STRATEGIC
ARMS--KNOWN AS THE SALT TALKS. IF SALT IS TO INCLUDE
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PAGE 02 LONDON 14820 071007Z

THE CRUISE MISSILE, THE SOVIETS WANT THE US TO CURB
MEDIUM-RANGE SEA AND LAND-BASED VERSIONS; AND, INDEED,
THESE ARE NOT AS ESSENTIAL TO AMERICAN SECURITY AS THE
1,580 MILE LONG-RANGE ONES LAUNCHED BY AIR.

BUT THE MEDIUM-RANGE CRUISE MISSILES COULD PLAY
AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EUROPE.

THE WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HANS-DIETRICH

GENSCHER POINTEDLY ASKED THE AMERICAS IN A LETTER LAST
UNE NOT TO CLOSE OFF ANY OPTIONS DURING THE SALT TALKS
THAT COULD AFFECT SUCH WEST GERMAN INTERESTS AS THE
GROUND-LAUNCHED CRUISE.

AND BRITAIN, THINKING FIVE TO TEN YEARS AHEAD, HAS
A SIMILAR INTEREST IN THE SEA-LAUNCHED TYPE; IT COULD
BE A CHEAP WAY OF PROLONGING THE LIFE OF THE BRITISH
POLARIS SUBMARINE DETERRENT.

THE FRENCH HAVE ALSO WARNED THE CARTER ADMINISTRA-
TION TO KEEP THE OPTIONS OPEN. THEY WAN TO BE FREE
TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR OWN CRUISE MISSILES IF NECESSARY.

THE ISSUE IS URGENT, FOR TALKS ABOUT A SALT
AGREEMENT ARE NEARING A CLIMAX.

THE RUSSIANS ARE WORRIED, ABOVE ALL, BY THE
MEDIUM-RANGE GROUND-LAUNCHED CRUISE BECAUSE IT COULD
HIT TARGETS IN THE SOVIET UNION FROM WEST GERMANY. IT
WOULD ALSO ALLOW NATO TO REPLACE AMERICAN TACTICAL
AIRCRAFT, EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR BOMBS, WITH CRUISE
MISSILES.

THE EUROPEANS SUSPECT THAT CARTER MAY SIGN AN
AGREEMENT COVERING MEDIUM-RANGE GROUND AND SEA
MISSILES (375-MILE RANGE) AND THAT HENRY KISSINGER,
THE FORMER US SECRETARY OF STATE, WAS READY TO ACCEPT
THIS LAST YEAR . . .

AMERICAN POLICY-MAKERS WORRY THAT THE CRUISE COULD
COME TO SYMBOLISE MANY OF THE LATENT CONTROVERSIAL
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PAGE 03 LONDON 14820 071007Z

ISSUES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES: THE
FUTURE OF DETENTE AT THE CORE OF WHICH ARE THE SALT
TALKS, THE TOTAL DEPENDENCE OF WESTERN EUROPE ON THE
AMERICAN DETERRENT, THE EVOLUTION OF A MORE INDEPENDENT
EUROPEAN DETERRENT, THE QUESTION OF HOW RELIABLE THE
AMERICAN COMMITMENT IS TO EUROPE'S DEFENCE, THE PROBLEM
OF THE TRANSFER OF AMERICAN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO ITS
ALLIES, EVEN THE REPROCESSING CONTROVERSY OVER NUCLEAR
MATERIAL.

LATELY, SOME EUROPEAN EXPERTS HAVE QUESTIONED THE
EUROPEAN RELIANCE ON AMERICAN ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH TH
RUSSIANS. THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT RUSSIA'S SS-20, A
POWERFUL MOBILE MEDIUM RANGE MISSILE TARGETED ON
WESTERN EUROPE; BECAUSE OF ITS MEDIUM RANGE THE SS-20
IS EXCLUDED FROM SALT. THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE
SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBR, /WHICH IS A FAR GREATER THREAT
TO WESTERN EUROPE THAN TO THE UNITED STATES. AND THEY A
WORRIED THAT, SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, THE AMERICANS'
TACTICAL AIRCRAFT BASED IN EUROPE WHICH UP TO NOW THE
RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN WILLING TO EXCLUDE FROM SALT CURBS,
WILL BE FORCED ONTO THE BARGAINING TABLE BY THE
RUSSIANS.

ONE EUROPEAN VIEW IS THAT A GROUND-LAUNCHED
CRUISE NOT ONLY MAKES SOME MILITARY SENSE, BUT COULD
BE AN IMPORTANT EUROPEAN BARGAINING COUNTER WITH THE
RUSSIANS."

BREWSTER

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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